

REMARKS

The office action of February 13, 2008, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that the drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a).

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over DE 29 620 018 to Uwe.

In connection with the Examiner's objection to the drawings, the "hardened" is a characteristic of the sealing lip and is not something that can be illustrated. The sealing lip appears the same whether or not it is hardened. Thus, the objection to the drawings is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Applicant has amended the specification to include section headings.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has amended claims 1 and 5.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended the claims to address the instances of indefiniteness pointed out by the Examiner.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the reference.

Turning now to the reference, it can be seen that Uwe discloses a bearing for a roll stand. Uwe does not disclose a ring-like extension with a drain groove on an external surface of the ring-like extension, which drain groove is open radially outward, as in the presently claimed invention. In Uwe there is no such drain groove. The element 20 is a space filled at least

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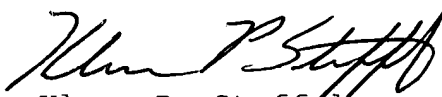
partially with grease and the gap 19 that extends to the space 20 is parallel to the axis of the roll. Thus the space is not open radially outward.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the above-discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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